GAY AND LESBIAN
COMMUNITY CENTRE
NEWS LETTER
January 1994

Edmonton Vocal Minority: The choir that won't shut up!

By Catherine R.

Edmonton Vocal Minority is a multi-talented group of primarily lesbian and gay people who sing choral music, and they do it wonderfully. Ranging in age from fifteen to sixty, they come from all walks of life to sing jazz, love songs and tunes from musicals. They also sing music commissioned by The Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALAC). GALAC is an international alliance of womens, mens and mixed choruses dedicated to providing support and inspiration to lesbians and gays through excellence in choral arts. GALAC can be truly proud of Edmonton Vocal Minority.

Using the name of the defunct Edmonton Vocal Minority choir from the early 1980's, eleven singers came together in November 1992 to sing with Calgary's Rocky Mountain Singers in Edmonton for a benefit concert for the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre. By June of 1993, membership in the new Edmonton Vocal Minority had increased to 33 for their impressive "Voices of Pride" Concert.

Today the choir is open to anyone who wants to sing, and while the membership is primarily lesbian or gay, many others have joined to share the experience.

A lean man, over sixty, with pale sandy hair is not gay but as a "recycled teen" enjoys the atmosphere, challenge and the music. " I used to work in sheet metal on a production line. I needed something to put the spark back into my life and music is a fantastic way to do that."

A peer counsellor at Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton finds that singing with EVM gives outlet to the strong emotions her work generates. " I can pour all the love and passion and rage I feel into the music," says Anne who belonged to a lesbian choir in Montreal. Anne finds having a mixed choir provides an added range of voices and feels many of the male singers are like brothers to her, a mutual musical interest draws them closer.

A young waiter finds his daily interactions with customersto be impersonal. He uses the choir to put balance in his life where he throws himself into the music at rehearsals and become united with the others who come together to laugh, learn, work and sing.

Janet was looking for a way to join other gays and lesbians in some sort of activity, one which included men from the community. When she heard about EVM she was afraid they wouldn't accept her, She had no voice training and felt she sometimes sang of key. Determined to try, she joined and found the women supportive, the men caring and aware. Now as president of EVM Janet makes sure newcomers feel as welcome as she did. She is proud of the fact the choir will accept anybody who is committed to music and give them a chance. /Continued on Page 2

EVM '94

"Love a la Carte"
Saturday Feb. 19, 8 p.m.
Highlights include a romantic trip to Broadway. Special guest: Kathy Da Silva.

"Edmonton Vocal Minority presents: JUBA!" Saturday, April 23, 8 p.m.
The EVM joins JUBA to presenting the pulse, rhythm and excitement of the music of AFRICA!

"Voices of Pride"
Saturday, June 25, 8 p.m.
Pride Week '94, join Edmonton Vocal Minority in this uplifting concert that salutes the strength, diversity, and richness of our community.

"Edmonton Vocal Minority presents: San Diego Men's Chorus" Saturday, July 2
Founded in 1985, this outstanding chorus constantly delights audiences in California with their warm, heartfelt singing. Visiting Canada for the first time, this concert should not be missed!

EVM Ticket Prices

$10 advance $12 at the door
Low Income:
$8 advance $12 at the door
Subscription Price:
$32 Regular
$20 Low income

admit one

Vocal Minority from Page 1

EVM member Dorthy is a flautist who also performs with singer-songwriter Kathy Da Silva. The choir will perform several of Kathy Da Silva's compositions this year and she will perform at "Love a la Carte" EVM concert February 19 at Convocation Hall in Edmonton.

Valerie Lee, creator of the Dance Theatre of Canada, and Tony Olivares are just two of the dance troup who are part of the choir. Tony sees the choir as a way to unify the lesbian and gay community and also as his extended family. Partners and friends are frequently involved in the business of costumes, schedules, tickets sales and all the details of performances.

The quality of the singing is due to hard work and commitment of the choir members themselves, but also to the very impressive talents of both its conductor and accompanist.

David, the Artistic Director of EVM is an accomplished conductor of church choirs and school bands. He teaches choral conducting, sings in a professional chamber choir and in a cappella group with five men. His training, experience and warmth have been crucial to the development of EVM. David sees himself as a facilitator; helping members to express the music within them.

Kirk, EVM's accompanist, is more familar with Bach than the material EVM performs. He responds well to the challenge. His sense of humor, patience and willingness to use his expertise to help individuals decipher the complex language of music has made him a vital member of the group.

Dave Hicks is a one of the vital non-singing members of the choir. As general manager, he looks after publicity, production, and all those niggling details that provide a backbone for the choir.

Together the choir, conductor and accompanist work to shape and blend and eventually share their music with us.

EVM rehearses Sunday's 2 - 4 p.m. Call 424-1561 or write 9541- 109A Ave . Edmonton AB, T5H 1G2

OUT & ABOUT in Edmonton

Thursday 20
Gaywire on Lesbigay radio 6-7 p.m. on CJSR 88.5 FM

Friday 21
Recreational LesBiGay Badminton at 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. at Oliver School, 10210 117 St.

Saturday 22
Pink Triangle Youth group for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual youth 16-18 years of age. 8-10 p.m. at GLCCE, #104 11745 Jasper Ave.

Sunday 23
Vocal Minority Choir practice, 2-4 p.m. Call Janet at 469-6148 for information.
Metropolitan Community Church weekly worship service, 7:15 p.m. at 10086 MacDonald Drive.

Monday 24
Lesbian Coming Out group at GLCCE #104 11745 Jasper Ave. at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 25
GALOC Gays and Lesbian on Campus meet at Heritage Lounge at Athabasca Hall 5 p.m.

Wednesday 26
Princess Theatre Presents "Claire of the Moon" 9:30 p.m. 10337 82 Ave.
GALOC Women's Collective meets Room 2-121, Education North, at U of A, 5 p.m.

Thursday 27
Gaywire on Lesbigay radio 6-7 p.m. on CJSR 88.5 FM
Metro Cinema presents "Female Misbehavior" 4 film by Monica Treut featuring Dr. Paglia, Annie Sprinkle, Max and bondage. 8p.m. at NFB, Main Floor, Canada Place, 9700 Jasper Ave. Runs Jan 27 -29.

Friday 28
Recreational LesBiGay Badminton at 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. at Oliver School, 10210 117 St.
Saturday 29
Pink Triangle Youth group for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual youth 16-18 years of age. 8-10 p.m. at GLCCE, #104 11745 Jasper Ave.

Sunday 30
Black and White Affair presents artist united in performance to benefit AIDS. Tickets are $20 from Ticketmaster Outlets.
Vocal Minority Choir practice, 2-4 p.m. Call Janet at 469-6148 for information.
Metropolitan Community Church weekly worship service, 7:15 p.m. at 10086 MacDonald Drive.

Tuesday 1
GALOC Gays and Lesbian on Campus meet at Heritage Lounge at Athabasca Hall 5 p.m.

Wednesday 2
GALOC Women's Collective meets Room 2-121, Education North, at U of A, 5 p.m.

Thursday 3
LesBiGay Dart Club meets at GLCCE #104 11745 Jasper Ave. at 7:30 p.m.
Gaywire on Lesbigay radio 6-7 p.m. on CJSR 88.5 FM
Womonspace Drop-in at Women's Building 9930 106 St.7:30-9 p.m.

Friday 4
Recreational LesBiGay Badminton at 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. at Oliver School, 10210 117 St.

Saturday 5
Pink Triangle Youth group for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual youth 16-18 years of age. 8-10 p.m. at GLCCE, #104 11745 Jasper Ave.

Sunday 6
Womonspace General Meeting at Women's Building 9930 106 St.
Vocal Minority Choir practice, 2-4 p.m. Call Janet at 469-6148.
Metropolitan Community Church weekly worship service, 7:15 p.m. at 10086 MacDonald Drive.

Tuesday 8
GALOC Gays and Lesbian on Campus meet at Heritage Lounge at Athabasca Hall 5 p.m.

Wednesday 9
GALOC Women's Collective meets Room 2-121, Education North, at U of A, 5 p.m.

Thursday 10
Gaywire on Lesbigay radio 6-7 p.m. on CJSR 88.5 FM

Friday 11
Recreational LesBiGay Badminton at 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. at Oliver School, 10210 117 St.

Saturday 12
Pink Triangle Youth group for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual youth 16-18 years of age. 8-10 p.m.

Women's Coming Out Group

The next Women's Coming Out Group begins January 10 and runs Monday's through February 14. Call GLCCE at 488-3234 to become part of this process.

Library Notes

We need at least six book-lovers to volunteer one weekend in January to finish cataloguing our ever increasing library. Leave a message for Pat at GLCCE 488-3234 if you are interested.

Counsellor or Host Training

Sign up now for the new session of training for GLCCE counsellor or host. The session begins in February but it is already almost full! Applicants will be interviewed prior to starting the course. Call 488-3234 to apply.

Pink Triangle Youth Group

PTYE meets Saturday evenings from 8 - 10 p.m. at the Centre. The group, for youth 16-18, is still in search of a female facilitator. Leave a message for Brent at GLCCE 488-3234 if you are interested.

Gay and Lesbian Dart Club

The next meeting of the dart club is at GLCCE on Thursday, February 4 at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Please call Snake at 428-8847 or Ray at 421-4427 for information.

Saturday Market

Beginning the first Saturday in March the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for drop-in, library services and a new Saturday Market.

This market is an opportunity for small LesBiGay businesses in Edmonton, who have no retail outlet, to set up tables in the GLCCE boardroom. For information on renting a table at GLCCE call 488-3234 and leave a message for Pat or Ken.

Freedom Rings on Sale

These colorful rings on a neckchain will be available at GLCCE's Saturday Market in March. All proceeds go to GLCCE.

Gay Connections Introductory Service:

What is it all about?

This article is in response to calls to GLCCE about the nature of the new introduction service, "Gay Connections", a new business in Edmonton. This article is not an endorsement by the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre, but is meant in the way of explanation and was provided by "Gay Connections."

Gay Connections is a division of Chances Are Introduction Services. Gay Connections was formed because of the need for a personal, professional and more importantly confidential service in Edmonton. This service is also being offered Alberta and has clients as far as Peace River, Fort McMurray to the southern part of the province including Calgary and surrounding area.

Gay Connections is a Introduction Service exclusively for Gays, Lesbians and Bi-sexuals. It is not an Escort agency, or an Automated System. The company specializes in friendship, casual dating and long term committed relationships. Clients range in age from 18 to 70+.

When you call Gay Connections, you will speak confidentially to a representative who will explain the Gay Connections program to you. If you are interested in becoming a member you will be sent a profile kit to fill out and return. When you mail it back, Gay Connections will call you to confirm the information. At this point members can make an appointment to visit the office and speak personally to a representative if they want.

Each members file is handled personally by a representative, not a computer. Depending on a clients expectations in their file they may be matched with someone as early as three weeks. However, this system is designed for long-term success and a six months program is a usual time frame.

For information on "Gay Connections" call their office at 430-9492.

NOTICE

all

GLCCE MEMBERS

Annual General Meeting

is February 25

7 p.m. at GLCCE

#104 117 45 Jasper Ave.

AGENDA

1. Directors Reports
2. Re-sizing and restructuring the GLCCE Board
3. Elections of Board Members
4. Other business from the floor

If you are considering running for the GLCCE board, please contact Candice or Paul, chairpersons of GLCCE 2 weeks prior to the AGM with a brief personal description and experience you feel qualifies you to serve on the board of GLCCE.

Whistler Gay Ski Week '94

On February 6-13 more than one thousand gay men and lesbians from around the world will ski, dance and dine and ski some more at Whistler B.C.

Plans for the week include slope-side luncheons, races helicopter skiing and apres ski events.

The highlight of the week is the Second Annual SnowBall featuring New York DJ Billy Carroll, From Roxy, Bump at USA and Fire Island fame. Proceeds from the SnowBall benefit the "Be True to Yourself Foundation" a non-profit organizations that supports projects which enhance pride and self-esteem of gay and lesbian youth. The foundation was started by the body-building duo Bob and Rod Jackson-Paris, who will attend the ski weekend signing copies of their new book, "Straight From the Heart."

Package rates run from $645 for a quad at Fairways or Glacier Hotels or a high as $1,897 for a single at the deluxe Delta Hotel. For a little extra money you can also take an additional day in Vancouver.

Included in all packages are 7 nights in your hotel, a 5 day dual mountain pass for Whistler-Blackcomb, admission to opening party, registration for the big Ski Race or scavenger hunt, admission to the SnowBall Dance, Whistler Gay Ski Week T-Shirt, and discounts on ski rentals and lessons.

Edmonton LesBiGay Unitarians to host Conference

"Living on a New Frontier" is the theme for Convo '94, the Tenth Annual International Assembly of Unitarian Universalists for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns.

This conference is Saturday, February 19 at the Edmonton Hilton. Cost is $55 for the workshops, and AIDS service and a presentation by Svend Robinson. A banquet and dance are also included. Call Ruth at 436-3108 or Stan at 428-6605 for more information.

GLCCE Wish list

We fanatsize about fax machines!
We covet copiers!
Our lack of a VCR vexes us!
If you are upgrading your home or office equipment and would like to donate older items to your community centre, give us a call.
We are not a junk store but there are many things we need.

The Gay and Lesbian Community Newsletter is compiled and distributed by G.L.C.C.E. 10 times each year. We accept announcements, press releases and information relevant to the LesBiGay community. We will edit for space and content.
Next deadline is Feb. 10.
If yo have an annuncement or article call Pat at 488-8378 or Ray at 421-4427.
Articles may also be submitted at GLCCE 7 - 10 p.m. Monday through Friday. and Wednesday 1- 4 p.m.
#104 11745 Jasper Avenue

Care To Join Us?

The Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton
#104 11745 Jasper Avenue
Write: PO Box 1852
Edmonton AB
T5K 2P2
488-3234 InfoLine 988-4018

GLCCE Offers:
- **Drop in and peer counselling**
- **Library facilities**
- **boardroom available for bookings**
- **an information bulletin board**
- **referrals for LesBiGay positive lawyers, doctors, counsellors etc.**
- **information on LesBiGay organizations in Edmonton.**

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____ **Phone number** _____

☐ **$25 per year** ☐ **$40 family**

☐ **$15 fixed income** ☐ **$20 fixed income family**

☐ Please contact me as a volunteer!